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TITLE: Non-endogenous, constitutively activated human protein-coupled receptors

DATE-ISSUED: April 29, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for creating a non-endogenous, constitutively active version of an endogenous human G protein coupled receptor (GPCR), said endogenous GPCR comprising a transmembrane 6 region and an intracellular loop 3 region, the method consisting essentially of: (a) selecting an endogenous human GPCR comprising a proline residue in the transmembrane-6 region; (b) identifying the endogenous 16.sup.th amino acid residue from the proline residue of step (a), in a carboxy-terminus to amino-terminus direction; (c) altering only the identified amino acid residue of step (b) to a non-endogenous amino acid residue to create a non-endogenous version of the endogenous human GPCR; and (d) determining if the non-endogenous version of the endogenous human GPCR of step (c) is constitutively active by measuring a difference in an intracellular signal measured for the non-endogenous version as compared with a signal induced by the endogenous human GPCR.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the amino acid residue that is two residues from said proline residue in the transmembrane 6 region, in a carboxy-terminus to amino-terminus direction, is tryptophan.

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